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Tiger In Trouble

Delmon Young arrested on anti-Semitic hate-crime harassment charge.

Jackie Headpohl
Managing Editor

Detroit Tigers left fielder Delmon Young was arrested on a misdemeanor hate-crime harassment charge early Friday morning, April 27, in New York City. Police say he had a tussle with a group of men and yelled anti-Semitic epithets.

ESPN.com reports allegations that Young was at the Hilton New York when he started yelling anti-Semitic slurs toward a group of tourists from Chicago and a panhandler wearing a yarmulke. Young also allegedly got into a physical altercation with one of the tourists, resulting in scratches to the person's elbow. New York detective Joseph Cavito told the *Detroit Free Press* that the man refused medical attention.

After his arrest, Young was hospitalized because he was believed to be intoxicated, according to police. He faces a misdemeanor "aggravated harassment hate crime" charge.

He was arraigned Friday and posted a \$5,000 bond. If convicted, he could face up to a year in jail.

"When I read the news about Young, my heart sank to the floor," wrote Rabbi Jason Miller on his blog. "My oldest son is 8. In the past year, he has become a diehard Detroit Tigers fan. He knows all the players by name. He knows their uniform number and their statistics ... How am I supposed to explain to my son that Delmon Young was [allegedly] drunk, got into a street fight, yelled an anti-Semitic slur and got arrested?"

The Detroit Tigers' front office issued an official statement: "We are aware of the situation, however it is our club policy not to comment on pending legal matters ... Per a provision in the Major League Baseball Basic Agreement, any allegation that involves alcohol is referred to MLB's Employee Assistance Program."

Miller considers that only the first legal step in the process for the Tigers. "They will also have to help Young issue an apology to Jewish people for his anti-Semitic slur. There are several issues at play here: his abuse of alcohol, his anger management issues and his use of an anti-Semitic epithet," blogged Miller.

Young issued his own apology on Friday, which did not mention the alleged anti-Semitic slur:

"I sincerely regret what happened last night. I apologize to everyone I affected, the Ilitch family, the Detroit



Detroit Tiger Delmon Young

Tigers' organization, my teammates, my family and the great Tigers' fans that have supported me since day one. I take this matter very seriously and assure everyone that I will do everything I can to improve myself as a person and player."

It's not Young's first angry outburst. In 2006, he was suspended for 50 games without pay by the International League for throwing a bat that hit a replacement umpire in the chest. He later apologized to the umpire.

Storm Kirschenbaum, owner of Metis Sports Management in Birmingham, called the news of Young's arrest "completely unfortunate."

"Delmon Young has a past history of issues on and off the field. Everyone had assumed he grew up," Kirschenbaum said. "I know that Young's agent is Jewish, so I doubt that Young is a Jew-hater. I think the incident was due to intoxication."

The Detroit Tigers were in New York for a series against the Yankees beginning on Friday night. Young is hitting .242 with one home run and five RBIs in 18 games. Young was placed on the restricted list and did not play in the three-game series, which the Tigers lost, 2-1. He underwent a psychological evaluation Monday.

Major League Baseball suspended Young for seven days without pay, retroactive to April 27. The suspension will cost Young more than \$250,000, according to the *Detroit News*.

"To my 8-year-old son, all of the Detroit Tigers are heroes," Miller blogged. "The Tigers need to get Young help and they need to tackle this matter head on or it will become an even worse PR nightmare." □